

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 21, 1997 LB 104

the industry and benefiting from the profits setting these systems up in a way that isn't perhaps the most cost-effective? I don't know, but it certainly raises the question in my mind of whether we're getting the best value for our money as we're spending. And I appreciate the merging of both Douglas County and the city of Omaha into one system. At this point it's a little late. But I also question, wouldn't it have been more cost-effective also to have done the system with Sarpy County, to have created one metro area system, perhaps even including what happens in...across the river in the metropolitan area of Council Bluffs? We're all responding together. There could be different people who get the call, but in effect dispatch that call to the appropriate official, particularly being so close in Douglas and Sarpy County where only a geopolitical boundary of Harrison Street divides the two, and yet there's a lot of concern on one side of that line that applies to the other as well. The whole issue of how well this money is being spent is what the taxpayers are causing us to question and to closely examine right now. I appreciate the merger between Omaha and Douglas County. I wish that more had been done sooner and merging also with Sarpy County. I wish also that there were some, and perhaps there are. I don't intend to be unjustly critical. But perhaps there could be more oversight in the costs that are currently being proposed to be spent. And at this point I'm certainly supportive of Senator Chambers' amendment, and I'm going to look very closely at what I do with the bill itself, because at this point I'm getting an overwhelming response from my constituents to oppose this legislation. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Madam President. I've enjoyed the debate. I think that...I think it's probably a good, I guess, trial run for some of the more controversial issues we'll be dealing with later on this session. This bill, I don't feel, fits within that category, but I guess it's all in your perspective on what is important and what's not important. I'd like to point out a couple of things here. First off, the system that was merged, the 911 system that was merged will be a savings to the residents of Douglas County as well as the city of Omaha, because if a new system, in reference to the remarks